

NEWS RELEASE

Pacific Northwest Region - Colville National Forest
765 S. Main Street, Colville, WA 99114, www.fs.usda.gov/colville

Contact: Franklin Pemberton, 509.684.7177

June 2, 2013

2013 Capitol Christmas Tree Search

Newport, WA - On June 14, 2013 join Forest Service employees and volunteers on the Newport and Sullivan Lake Ranger District to find the perfect U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree to adorn the lawn in front of the U.S. Capitol Building this holiday season. We need your help and would like you and your family to join us in the fun of searching the Colville National Forest for the perfect tree.

If you would like to participate, please meet at the Newport or Sullivan Lake Ranger Station at 9 am. You can choose to ride with a Ranger (limited space available) or drive your own vehicle. Groups will choose the area they would like to search and be provided with the specifications of what the perfect U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree looks like. If you have a GPS unit and a camera, bring them because you will want to take pictures and accurately map your tree.

When:

9:00 a.m. - June 14, 2013

Location:

Newport Ranger Station – 315 North Warren, Newport, WA.

Sullivan Lake Ranger Station – 12641 Sullivan Lake Road, Metaline Falls, WA.

What:

We're looking for a tree between 60 and 85 feet tall, with the classic Christmas tree shape. Preferred species are Engelmann Spruce, Sub Alpine Fir, Douglas-fir or Grand Fir. The location of the tree needs to be within 100-feet of a road.

Contact:

If you plan on joining us, please R.S.V.P. with Olivia Giannasi at (509) 447-7325 or at ogiannasi@fs.fed.us

Once we have a number of candidate trees, the U.S. Capitol Architect will come out later in June and select the best tree from those we have found to be the official 2013 U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree.

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If you can't make this event you can still participate. If you know of a tree that meets the specifications listed above and it is on the Colville National Forest, please provide your information to us no later than June 14, 2013. Tree information and pictures can be sent to cadavidson@fs.fed.us.

In addition to providing the U.S. Capitol Christmas tree, Washingtonians have the privilege of providing 5000 handmade ornament to adorn the tree. We will also supply several smaller 'companion' trees to decorate government offices throughout the Washington D.C. area – these trees will also need 3,000 indoor ornaments. The Colville National Forest will collect ornaments throughout the year until October 1, 2013. If you are interested in making ornaments as part of an organization, please go to our website and find the ornament criteria and submission forms at www.capitolchristmastree.com

Be sure to visit the U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree team at local events like the Newport Rodeo, Down Rivers Days, Lavender Festival, Pend Oreille County fair and Pend Oreille County Relay for Life. There will be information about the U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree and ornament making at most of these events.

For more information on the U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree or how you can be involved, contact Jennifer Knutson, Project Coordinator at (509) 684-7254 or jenniferknutson@fs.fed.us.

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